

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 ACDA-10

OMB-01 MCT-01 /089 W

-----181553Z 079896 /53

R 181351Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1359

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 0363

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR SY LE XF

SUBJ: JANUARY 18 SYRIAN MEDIA SUMMARY

1. MEDIA FOCUS ON REACTION TO PRES ASAD'S TIME INTERVIEW (SEPTTEL) LEFT MARGINAL SPACE FOR ATTENTION TO OTHER ISSUES. CONCERNING LEBANON, PRES ASAD RECEIVED LEBANESE NASSERITE LEADER KAMAL SHATILA TO REVIEW "DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANESE SITUATION AND CONTINUOUS PROGRESS IN CONSOLIDATION OF SECURITY AND RETURN TO NORMALCY THERE." PRESS REPORTED PRES SARKIS CHAIRED MEETING OF EXPERTS TO DISCUSS RECONSTRUCTION AND ALSO ACTIVATION OF LEBANESE INSTITUTIONS. LEBANESE BANKS RESUMED THEIR ACTIVITIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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DECISION OF BANKING ASSOCIATION.

2. PRESS CAPTIONED STATEMENT BY ISRAELI COS GUR:

"SYRIAN FORCES IN LEBANON CONSTITUTE PERIL TO ISRAEL.

GUR EXPRESSES HIS APPREHENSION OVER OUR FORCES IN

LEBANON AND THREATENS ARABS WITH 'PRE-EMPTIVE ATTACK.'"

3. ON REGIONAL FRONT, PRESS REPORTED PRES SADAT RECEIVED
FONMIN KHADDAM PREVIOUS DAY IN PRESENCE OF VP MUBARAK.

4. AL-BAATH COLUMNIST ASSERTED THAT IT HAS BECOME CLEAR
ISRAEL DOES NOT DESIRE CONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE AND
IS STIMULATING DOMESTIC CRISIS IN HOPES OF DELAYING OR
EVEN PROVOKING CANCELLATION OF GENEVA MEPC. HE WARNED THAT
FAILURE AT GENEVA TO REACH JUST SETTLEMENT WOULD PROVIDE
ARABS WITH SUFFICIENT INTERNATIONAL JUSTIFICATION TO "EMPLOY
METHOD THEY DEEM PROPER TO ACHIEVE JUST PEACE." HE CONCLUDED
WITH APPEAL FOR UNIFYING ARAB RANKS.

5. PRESS REPORTED TURKISH AUTHORITIES HAVE EXPELLED TWO
IRAQI TERRORISTS WHO ATTEMPTED TO CONDUCT SABOTAGE OPERATION
AGAINST SYRIAN EMBASSY IN ANKARA.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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